

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A file processing apparatus, including:

an attribute input unit which acquires a value of an attribute for at least one file in order to represent a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file by using a concept of weight;

a comparison processing unit which compares the value of an attribute with a reference value;

a position determining unit which sets, based on a result obtained from said comparison processing unit, a relative display position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight; and

a display processing unit which visually represents the value of the attribute in terms of whether the weight is heavy or light, by displaying the object at the display position on a screen set by said position determining unit.

2. A file processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further including an inclination detector which detects inclination of a predetermined region in the file processing apparatus operated by a user, wherein according to the inclination detected by said inclination detector said position determining unit varies the relative display position.

3. A file processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said attribute input unit acquires values of the attribute for a plurality of files, said comparison processing unit sets a value of an attribute for at least

one of the plurality of files to the reference value, said position determining unit sets relative display positions of a plurality of objects corresponding to the plurality of files, respectively, and wherein said display processing unit displays the plurality of files at the respective display positions and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights.

4. A file processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said comparison processing unit sets, as the reference value, a size of a storage area that stores at least one file, said position determining unit sets a relative display position of an object indicative of the storage area according to the size of the storage area, and wherein said display processing unit visually expresses the comparison of data size between the at least one file and the storage area via the another object.

5. A file processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said attribute input unit acquires values of an attribute for a plurality of files and said comparison processing unit classifies the plurality of files into a plurality of groups according to the respective values of the attribute, and wherein said display processing unit displays the object in an appearance corresponding to the respective groups.

6. A file processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said attribute input unit acquires values of an

attribute for a plurality of files, said comparison processing unit classifies the plurality of files into a plurality of classes and sequentially compares the values of an attribute for each class, wherein, after relative display positions are temporarily determined respectively as positions that initially display objects for the plurality of files, said position determining unit sequentially updates the relative display positions in a manner such that comparison results for each class are reflected for each class, and wherein said display processing unit varies the display of the objects according to said updating after the plurality of files are displayed at the temporally determined relative display positions.

7. A file processing apparatus according to Claim 5, further including a vibration detector which detects a swaying motion at a predetermined region of the file processing apparatus operated by a user, wherein said comparison processing unit performs a comparison processing when the motion is detected, and said position determining unit updates the relative display position according to the result obtained from said comparison processing unit.

8. A file processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further including a vibration detector which detects a swaying motion at a predetermined region of the file processing apparatus operated by a user, wherein said comparison processing unit performs a comparison processing when the motion is detected, and said position determining

unit updates the relative display position according to the result obtained from said comparison processing unit.

9. A file processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further including:

- an instruction receiving unit which receive an instruction from a user intending to change the display position of the object; and

- an effect generator which causes, based on the instruction, said position determining unit and said display processing unit to process a change in any of position, shape and appearance of the object.

10. A method of processing files, including:

- setting a relative display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file, in order to represent the value of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight; and

- representing visually the weight by displaying the object at the relative display position on a screen.

11. A method of processing files according to Claim 10, further including:

- detecting inclination of a predetermined apparatus operated by a user; and

- varying the relative display positions according to the inclination.

12. A method of processing files, including:

acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of intended files in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight;

setting, for each of the plurality of files, a relative display position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on the values of a predetermined attribute; and

displaying the objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions on a screen, and expressing visually comparison of the weights of the objects via another object that symbolizes weight measurement.

13. A method of processing files according to Claim 12, wherein said acquiring further acquires a size of a storage area that stores at least one file, and said setting sets the relative display position of at least one object corresponding to the at least one file, based on a comparison result obtained by comparing a data size between the at least one object and the storage area, and wherein said displaying and expressing represents visually the comparison result via the another object.

14. A method of processing files, including:

acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of files, in order to represent the values of a

predetermined attribute for intended files by using a concept of weight;

setting a temporary sequence for the plurality of files;

determining, based on the temporary sequence, a temporary display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light;

displaying an object that corresponds to the plurality of files, at the temporary display position on a screen;

comparing the values of a predetermined attribute between adjacent files in the temporary sequence;

updating the display position based on a comparison result obtained from said comparing; and

representing visually the weight thereof by varying display contents according to said updating.

15. A method of processing files according to Claim 14, further including:

detecting a swaying motion of a predetermined apparatus operated by a user;

performing said comparing when the swaying motion is detected in said detecting;

updating a relative display position of the object according to the comparison result.

16. A method of processing files according to Claim 10, further including:

acquiring an instruction from a user who intends to cause a display position of the object to be changed; and

changing at least one of position, shape and appearance of the object, based on the instruction.

17. A program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of:

setting a relative display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file, in order to represent the value of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight; and

representing visually the weight by displaying the object at the relative display position on a screen.

18. A program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of:

acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of intended files in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight;

setting, for each of the plurality of files, a relative display position of a predetermined object representing symbolically the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on the values of a predetermined attribute; and

displaying on a screen the objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions, and expressing visually comparison of the weights of the objects via another object that symbolizes weight measurement.

19. A program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of:

- acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of files, in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute for intended files by using a concept of weight;

- setting a temporary sequence for the plurality of files;

- determining, based on the temporary sequence, a temporary display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light;

- displaying an object that corresponds to the plurality of files, at the temporary display position on a screen;

- comparing the values of a predetermined attribute between adjacent files in the temporary sequence;

- updating the display position based on a comparison result obtained from said comparing; and

- representing visually the weight thereof by varying display contents according to said updating.

20. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of:

- setting a relative display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file, in order to represent the value of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight; and



representing visually the weight by displaying the object at the relative display position on a screen.

21. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of:

acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of intended files in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight;

setting, for each of the plurality of files, a relative display position of a predetermined object representing symbolically the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on the values of a predetermined attribute; and

displaying on a screen the objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions, and expressing visually comparison of the weights of the objects via another object that symbolizes weight measurement.

22. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of:

acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of files, in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute for intended files by using a concept of weight;

setting a temporary sequence for the plurality of files;

determining, based on the temporary sequence, a temporary display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light;

displaying an object that corresponds to the plurality of files, at the temporary display position on a screen;

comparing the values of a predetermined attribute between adjacent files in the temporary sequence;

updating the display position based on a comparison result obtained from said comparing; and

representing visually the weight thereof by varying display contents according to said updating.